

REMARKS

Power of Attorney and Revocation of Prior Powers

Applicants note the filing herewith of a Power of Attorney to those practitioners associated with Customer Number 24247, including the undersigned attorney, and the revocation of all prior powers of attorney. Should this paper not have been scanned and entered in the records of the Office, the undersigned will be happy to send another copy to the Examiner by facsimile.

The Final Office Action and Proposed Amendments

The Final Office Action mailed February 9, 2005, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 20 stand rejected. Applicants propose to cancel claim 8, amend claims 1 and 6, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as proposed to be amended herein.

Applicants propose to amend claim 1 to enhance the language of the preamble and to correct a minor punctuation error.

Applicants propose to amend claim 6 to enhance antecedent basis.

Claim 8 was previously canceled by predecessor counsel in responding to the prior, non-Final Office Action. However, such cancellation is apparently not of record with the Office, since the Final Office Action does not reflect same. Therefore, Applicants once again propose to cancel claim 8.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,689,685

Claims 1 through 20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,685. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and

accompanying fee.

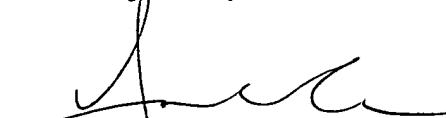
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The proposed cancellation of claim 8 and the amendments to claims 1 and 6 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search, and place the application in condition for allowance. Finally, if the Examiner determines that the amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, entry is respectfully requested upon filing of a Notice of Appeal herein.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 7 and 9 through 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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